



Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-40 (cancelled)

41. (Currently amended) A method of removing a residual clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin from a preparation of clostridial LH_N ~~toxin fragments or conjugates thereof~~, comprising:

- (i) applying ~~said preparation~~ a preparation comprising clostridial LH_N to a first affinity column, wherein said first affinity column comprises a first ligand immobilized on said first affinity column, and wherein said first ligand selectively binds to the clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin but does not bind to the clostridial LH_N ~~toxin fragments or conjugates thereof~~, thereby forming an immobilized first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin complex, and an eluate comprising the clostridial LH_N ~~toxin fragments or conjugates thereof~~, wherein said eluate may contain an amount of first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin complex that has become detached from the first affinity column;
- (ii) contacting said eluate with a second affinity column, wherein said second affinity column comprises a second ligand immobilized on said second affinity column, and wherein said second ligand selectively binds to the first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin complex, if present in the eluate, ~~wherein said second ligand binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-clostridial~~

~~toxin complex~~, but does not bind to the clostridial LH_N ~~toxin fragments or conjugates thereof~~ present in the eluate; and
thereby removing the clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin from the preparation of the clostridial LH_N ~~toxin fragments or conjugates thereof~~.

42. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the first ligand is an antibody.

43. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the first ligand is a metal ion.

44. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the second ligand is an antibody.

45. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 41, wherein the second ligand is Protein G.

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of removing a residual clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin from a preparation of clostridial LH_N, comprising:

- (i) applying ~~said preparation~~ a preparation comprising clostridial LH_N to a first affinity column, wherein said first affinity column comprises a first ligand immobilized on said first affinity column, and wherein said first ligand selectively binds to the clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin but does not bind to the clostridial LH_N, thereby forming an immobilized first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~

neurotoxin complex, and an eluate comprising the clostridial LH_N, wherein said eluate may contain an amount of first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin complex that has become detached from the first affinity column;

- (ii) contacting said eluate with a second affinity column, wherein said second affinity column comprises a second ligand immobilized on said second affinity column, and wherein said second ligand selectively binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin complex, if present in the eluate, ~~wherein said second ligand binds to the first ligand part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex and/or to the clostridial toxin part of the first ligand-clostridial toxin complex~~, but does not bind to the clostridial LH_N present in the eluate; and

thereby removing the clostridial ~~toxin~~ neurotoxin from the preparation of the clostridial LH_N.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the first ligand is an antibody.
49. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the first ligand is a metal ion.
50. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the second ligand is an antibody.
51. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein the second ligand is Protein G.